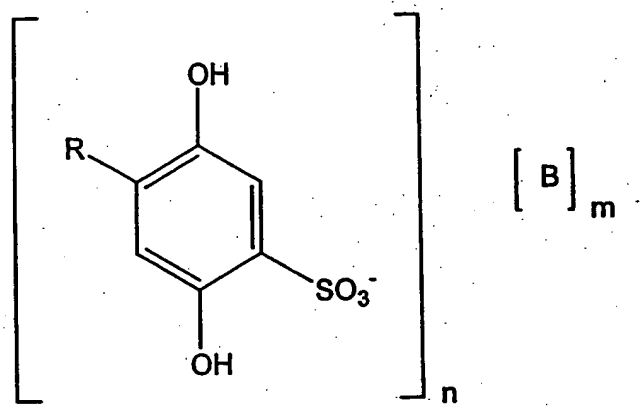
III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) Use of at least one of the 2,5-dihydroxybenzenesulfonic compounds of general formula I,



I

wherein

R represents H or SO_3-,

B represents at least one cation

n represents 1 or 2

m represents 1 or 2,

optionally in form of a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate, for the manufacture of a medicament for the regulation of nitric oxide (NO) synthesis and/or the regulation of EDHF (Endothelium-Derived-Hyperpolarizing-Factor) in the endothelium of diabetic patients, whereby the medicament is administered in a daily dose of the afore mentioned compounds of formula I of < 500 mg.

2. (Original) Use according to claim 1, characterised in that the cation(s) B is (are) selected from the group consisting of Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, Na^{+}, K^{+} and $[NH_{4-x}R_x]^{+}$, whereby x is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and R represents a branched or unbranched C_{1-4}-alkyl-radical that may be the same or different for x>1.

3. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the compound of general formula I is calcium 2,5-dihydroxybenzenesulfonate (calcium dobesilate).

4. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the compound of general formula I is diethylamine 2,5-dihydroxybenzenesulfonate (ethamsylate).

5. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the compound of general formula I is bis(diethylamine)-2,5-dihydroxybenzene-1,4-disulfonate (persilate).

6. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~, characterized in that medicament is administered in a daily dose of compounds of general formula I of 100 to <500 mg, preferably 150 to 450 mg, particularly preferably 200 to 400 mg.

7. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of disorders

based on an impairment of nitric oxide (NO) production and/or impairment of regulation of EDHF function.

8. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1-17~~ for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of microcirculation disorders.

9. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1-8~~ for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of retinopathy.

10. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1-8~~ for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of sexual dysfunction, preferably erectile dysfunction.

11. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1-18~~ for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of renal disorders.

12. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1-8~~ for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of disorders of the coronary microcirculation.

13. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1-8~~ for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of disorders of the periphenal arterial microcirculation.

14. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1-13~~, characterized in that the medicament is suitable for oral administration.

15. (Original) Use according to claim 14, characterized in that the medicament is in the form of a tablet, a capsule or a suspension.

16. (Original) Use according to claim 14, characterized in that the medicament is in form of multiparticulates, preferably pellets or granules, optionally compressed into a tablet, filled into a capsule or suspended in a suitable liquid.

17. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1-16~~, characterized in that the medicament comprises at least one of the compounds of general formula I at least partially in a sustained-release form.

18. (Original) Use according to claim 17, characterized in that the medicament has at least one coating or matrix comprising at least one sustained-release material.

19. (Original) Use according to claim 18, characterized in that the sustained-release material is based on an optionally modified, water-insoluble, natural, semisynthetic or synthetic polymer, or a natural, semisynthetic or synthetic wax or fat or fatty alcohol or fatty acid, or on a mixture of at least two of these afore mentioned components.

20. (Original) Use according to claim 19, characterized in that the water-insoluble polymer is based on an acrylic resin, which is preferably selected from the group of poly(meth)acrylates, poly(C_{1-4})dialkylamino(C_{1-4})alkyl (meth)acrylates and/or copolymers thereof or a mixture of at least two of the aforementioned polymers.

21. (Original) Use according to claim 19, characterized in that the water-insoluble polymers are cellulose derivatives, preferably alkyl cellulose and particularly preferably ethyl cellulose, or cellulose esters.

22. (Original) Use according to claim 19, characterized in that the wax is carnauba wax, beeswax, glycerol monostearate, glycerol monobehenate, glycerol ditripalmitostearate, microcrystalline wax or a mixture of at least two of these components.

23. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 19~~Claims 19 to 22~~, characterized in that the polymers have been used in combination with one or more plasticizers.

24. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 14~~one of claims 14 to 23~~, characterized in that the medicament comprises an enteric coating.

25. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1~~one of claims 1 to 24~~, characterized in that the medicament comprises at least

one immediate-release coating comprising at least one of the compounds of general formula I.